

***REMARKS***

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application and the indication that claims 5-20 and 22-32 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, p. 4). The Office Action mailed April 3, 2007, however, tentatively rejected the remaining claims. This is a full and timely response to that outstanding Office Action. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3-4, and 6-32 are pending. More specifically, claims 1, 3, 6, 9, and 20 are amended and claims 2 and 5 are canceled. Claims 2 and 5 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter.

**I. Present Status of Patent Application**

Claims 1-4 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Elfrig, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,020) in view of *Reininger, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,426,463). Claims 5-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 22-32 are allowed. To the extent that these rejections have not been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims, they are respectfully traversed.

## **II. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Elfrig, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,020) in view of *Reininger, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,426,463). Though Applicant respectfully disagrees that claims 1, 3, 4, and 21 are unpatentable in view of *Elfrig* in view of *Reininger*, in the interest of expediting allowance of all claims, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6, 9, and 20. Hence, these amendments have rendered the rejection moot. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been rendered moot through the above-described amendment to claim 1. Independent claim 1 and intervening claim 2 have been added to allowable claim 20 making claim 20 an independent claim. Additionally, allowable claim 5 and intervening claim 2 have been added to claim 1. Therefore, as all presently pending claims contain subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner, all rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

## **III. Miscellaneous Issues**

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known for the particular and specific reasons that the claimed combinations are too complex to support such conclusions and because the Office Action does not include specific findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

***CONCLUSION***

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1, 3-4, and 6-32 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Benjamin A. Balser, Reg. No. 58,169**

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,  
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**  
Suite 1750  
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339  
(770) 933-9500